रांची, पटना और मुम्बई के बीच विमान-सेवा को बन्द किया जाना

* 529. **श्री नागमणि:** क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रांची, पटना और मुम्बई के बीच विमान-सेवा को बन्द कर दिया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या सरकार रांची, पटना लखनऊ और मुम्बई के बीच विमान-सेवाएं आरम्भ करने पर विचार कर रही है?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री सी० एम० इब्राहीम): (क) तथा (ख) विमानचालकों की कमी के कारण, इंडियन एयरलाइन्स ने दिसम्बर, 1992 से मुंबई-पटना रांची-मुंबई सैक्टर पर सप्ताह में दो बार की अपनी विमान-सेवा बन्द कर दी थी।

(ग) सहारा इंडिया एयरलाइन्स तथा इंडियन एयरलाइन्स इन स्थानों के लिए सेवा प्रचालित कर रहे हैं जिनका विवरण निम्नानुसार है:—

इंडियन एयरलाइन्स	आवृत्ति / सप्ताह
कलकत्ता-पटना-लखनऊ-दिल्ली	3
कलकत्ता-रांची-पटना-कलकत्ता	2
मुंबई-वाराणसी-लखनऊ-मुंबई	3
दिल्ली-पटना-रांची-दिल्ली	7
दिल्ली-लखनऊ-पटना-कलकत्ता	3
सहारा इंडिया एयरलाइन्स	
मुंबई-रांची-पटना-दिल्ली	3
दिल्ली-रांची-पटना-मुंबई	2
दिल्ली-पटना-रांची-मुंबई	1
दिल्ली-रांची-पटना-दिल्ली	3
मुंबई-वाराणसी-लखनऊ-दिल्ली	6
दिल्ली-लखनऊ-वाराणसी-मुंबई	6

Loss Making Branches of Andhra Bank

*530. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of loss making branches of Andhra Bank in the country;

(b) the number of such loss making branches in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether it is a fact that management has not come out with any innovation policy to improve customer service in the bank units in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the reasons for this lax attitude?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Andhra Bank has reported that during the year 1995-96 the number of loss making branches in the country was 408. Out of these, 314 loss making branches were in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Andhra Bank has reported that the customer service at its branches has been found to be satisfactory. The bank has further reported that it is making every effort to improve customer service.

Commissioning of T.V. Transmitter at Basot in Uttar Pradesh

*531. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 162 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th March, 1996 and State:

(a) whether the acquisition of the land identified for setting up of TV transmitte. at Basot in Almore District in U.P. has since been completed by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and by when the work on the project in likely to be initiated;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether the matter has been taken up/ pursued by Government with the State Government; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and by when the transmitter is scheduled to start transmission of TV programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM) (a) to (d) While necessary payments towards the cost of the identified site for the Very Low Power TV Transmitter (VLPT) project at Basot had already been made to the District authorities in Almora in March'96, the said site is yet to be handed-over by the concerned authorities to Doordarshan for the implementation of the VLPT project. The matter relating to early handing over of the site to Doordarshan is being actively followed up with the District authorities.

The installation work of VLPT project at Basot is expected to be completed in 1997 subject to the handing over of the identified site to Doordarshan by September'1996 by the District authorities.

Arrangements for HIV-Free Blood Donation and Blood Transfusion

*532. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether both blood donors and donees have become too hesitant and apprehensive to donate or receive blood transfusions, in the context of increasing HIV infection reports; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to provide fool-proof arrangements for HIV-free blood donation and blood transfusion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) Public awareness about safe blood products has increased. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act/ Rules provides for mandatory testing of blood for Human immuno Deficiency Virus (HIV). All the 715 public sector blood banks in the country have either tire required testing facilities for immedate resting of HIV positivity of blood samples or they are linked to 154 Zonal Biood Testing Centres (ZBTCs) where they can have the samples checked before transfusion. Rapid Test Kits are also provided to all the District Level Blood Banks.

Wrong handling of 'Monsoon Magic Offer' ^f All India

'533. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 'Monsoon Magic Offer' of Air India has not become popular;

(b) whether it is a fact that inspite of starting it in June 1996 no one availed of this offer because of wrong handling of this scheme by Air India;

(c) whether it is a fact that people who are not trained in goods marketing and without any proper experience were made inchargc of this scheme;

(d) on whom will the responsibility of failure of this scheme be put; and

(e) what steps are being taken to make the commercial and marketing wing of Air India more effective?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) No, Sir, There has been positive response from the travel trade and passengers to the scheme resulting in higher loads and increased revenues.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Dividend paid by UTI to investors under US-64

*534. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.T.I. has paid dividend of 20 per cent to its investors under Unit Scheme-64 for the year 1995-96;